

MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
MARITIME AFFAIRS  
OF  
GREAT-BRITAIN,

Especially in Relation to our Concerns  
in the WEST-INDIES.

To which is prefix'd,

The Original LETTER of the AUTHOR,  
to (and by the Command of) the Earl of Oxford,  
when High Treasurer of *England*, in Relation to  
the *South-Sea* Company, and the Trade they were  
designed to carry on; in which the Consequences  
of an ill Management in that Respect are fully  
laid open, and the true Nature of such a Com-  
merce explain'd.

---

By the late *JOHN PULLEN*, Esq;  
Governor of BERMUDAS.

---

To which is added,

Capt. *PAIN*'s Short View of *Spanish America*:  
Containing a succinct Deduction of Navigation,  
from its Original to the Discovery of the New World;  
and an Account of the Extent, Quality, Riches,  
and Trade of his Catholick Majesty's Dominions  
there, in a Method wholly New, and from Autho-  
rities never yet known to the Publick.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for T. ASTLEY, in St. Paul's Churchyard;  
and Sold by E. NUTT, at the Royal-Exchange; A.  
DODD, without Temple-Bar; J. ISTD, at the  
Golden Ball in Fleetstreet; and J. JOLLIFFE,  
in St. James's-street. MDCCLXXXII.

[Price One Shilling and Six-Pence.]







To the Right Honourable

E D W A R D,

*Earl of Oxford and Mortimer.*

**A**LTHO' your Lordship's  
known Affection to Litera-  
ture, and that Steady Concern you  
have always express'd for the Safe-  
ty, Honour and Advantage of your  
Country, were sufficient to justify  
my putting these Memoirs un-  
der your Patronage; yet I chuse  
to add the particular Reason that  
induc'd me to address your Lord-  
ship

iv. The DEDICATION.

*skip in this publick Manner, because I shall thereby gain an Opportunity of shewing that Respect, which every honest Briton ought to have for the Memory of that great and disinterested Statesman, the late Earl your Father.*

*The late Earl of Oxford, whose Merit consisted in solid Wisdom, and a Capacity equally ready and capable to serving his Country, form'd no Schemes, enter'd into no Measures, but what were consistent with the perpetual Interest, and must be of consequence continually beneficial to Great-Britain. He foresaw the Events which would follow his Negotiations, and tho' envious Tongues*  
tar-

The DEDICATION. V

*tarnish'd, in his Life-time, the Lustre of his Administration; yet those very Tongues (so apparently hath Time detected their Calumnies) have since join'd in applauding what they then decried.*

*The forming the South-Sea-Company, and the ASSIENTO, by which his Lordship procured for them a Freedom of Trade in the Spanish West-Indies, were certainly of great Consequence to the Nation; the Pains he took in settling it, and the Basis on which he would have establish'd the Company's Affairs, shew, that he designed a real National Advantage from the Profits arising from their Commerce, and not the enriching*



vi The DEDICATION.

*riching any particular Sett of People from their having previous Knowledge of Things, which might occasion a Fluctuation of Stock.*

*The Letter of the late Governor PULLEN, which I have prefix'd for that Purpose to these Memoirs, demonstrates the Care he took in Enquiring of those who were best versed in such Affairs, the Probability there was of succeeding in such a Scheme; and is therefore another Proof of the Wisdom and Integrity of that Noble Person in his Management of whatever related in any Degree to the Publick. I thought it my Duty to lay these Papers at the Feet*

The DEDICATION. vii  
*Feet of an Earl of Oxford, since  
from an Earl of Oxford, the  
Author, with the utmost Grati-  
tude, acknowledges he received his  
Bread.*

I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Devoted and

Most Humble Servant,

The EDITOR.

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1851







## THE INTRODUCTION.



IN a Country which has so strong a Dependence on Trade as ours, it cannot be called an unreasonable Hope, if we expect the Publick should encourage a Work, which has so direct a Tendency to advance it as the following Pages. They were written by *John Pullen, Esq;* late Governor of *Bermudas*; and as to their Date, they appear to have been composed about *A. D. 1711.* when the Earl of *Oxford* was in Power, and the War not yet ended. The Letter to that noble Peer was certainly of later Date than either these *Memoirs*, to which I have prefixed it, or that second Part remaining still in my Hands, and which I intend (God willing) to publish. But what induced me to print it now, was, because it will ap-  
a
pear

## ii *The* INTRODUCTION.

pear that our Author was a Person whose Judgment and Experience drew upon him the regard of that discerning Minister, who (as his Enemies must confess) would not have asked the Advice of an unfit Person on so important a Concern as the Trade of the *South Sea Company*. Mr. Pullen's Answer appears to have been written when that Affair was not thoroughly settled; and his Sentiments not only discover his intimate Acquaintance with what related to carrying on a Trade, such as the Earl of *Oxford* had projected for that Infant Company, but are expressed with a sincere Boldness, that speak the Writer a faithful, honest Man. How right they are in themselves, and how far his Notions have been justified by Facts, it doth not concern me to enquire, and 'tis probable the World may be soon made acquainted with them from a much abler Hand.

In other Arts and Sciences, those who have practised as well as professed them, are generally the best esteemed Authors. Theory is undoubtedly necessary, but that cannot be either so fully or so intelligibly laid down by him, who is only speculatively knowing, as by him, who is versed in the same Thing by experience. Nor is this Proposition more evident in any thing than in respect of Trade and Navigation; those who have never seen distant Regions

gions any otherwise than in a Map, and have no better Idea's of Trade than those they have picked up from some superficial Treatises on that Head, will form very wrong Notions, and if they have an itch to scribbling, vent the most impracticable Hypotheses upon that Subject: Whereas a Person of tolerable Judgment, and quick Apprehension, after having spent some of his junior Years at Sea, will be able to decide from a short Reflection on the possibility or impossibility of putting in execution any Design either of a peaceable Settlement or of a martial Expedition. He will, on such a Proposal, have present in his View the true Situation and appearance of the Place, and a perfect comprehension of all the Conveniencies and Inconveniencies, the Security or Danger of the Attempt, which it would require length of Time to search for in Books, and which the inaccuracy and disagreement of Authors, would at last leave doubtful. The Animadversions and Remarks therefore, however short of an Author like Governor *Pullen*, whose whole Life, as he informs us, had been spent in the Service of his Country, and carrying on its Commerce, are of more value to the inquisitive Trader, than Rheams of entertaining Relations of new discovered Countries, or the smooth Descriptions of untravelled Geographers, who, like under



iv *The* INTRODUCTION.

Painters, employ themselves only in the Drapery of the Piece.

What Mr. *Pullen* was, most of the Gentlemen who are concerned in the *West-Indian* Trade, are well acquainted with; and for the sake of that Curiosity, which a Man's Merit excites in the World towards knowing his Person and Fortunes, I intend a short Memoir of his Life shall be prefixed to the second Part. In the mean time, let him give this Account of himself, which, as a sort of Authority for his Observations, he has endors'd on the Papers we have now printed, and in his own Words runs thus :

' 'Tis very natural to suppose, that the  
' Reader may have a Curiosity to know  
' who I am ; for whether he judges it ill  
' or well done, he will desire to know the  
' Author, tho' for different Reasons. And  
' to comply with him, as far as I yet  
' think reasonable, I desire him to take the  
' following Account. I may, without be-  
' ing thought too assuming, say, I am a  
' Gentleman, bred up to the Sea from  
' twelve Years of Age, and have sailed in  
' most Sorts of Vessels used by *Europeans*,  
' and have commanded them appointed  
' both in a Mercantile and warlike Man-  
' ner, just as Occasion offer'd ; and for the  
' Course

The INTRODUCTION. v

‘ Course of my Experience, I have been in  
‘ both the *Indies*; in the *East Indies* I stay’d  
‘ five Years wanting a few Months, and  
‘ then returned home; and, to satisfy my  
‘ Curiosity, I undertook four Voyages to  
‘ the *West Indies* successively, where I hard-  
‘ ly left any Place unvisited; in which  
‘ space of Time I believe I convers’d with  
‘ more of our *Buccaneers* that have been in  
‘ the *South Seas*, than any one Man of her  
‘ Majesty’s Subjects hath done. In this Ac-  
‘ count I have omitted several Voyages I  
‘ made to the Islands in the Ocean; as the  
‘ *Canaries*, the *Azores*, and the *Cape de Verde*  
‘ Islands, as judging it not very material;  
‘ as also a Voyage to the *Mediterranean*.  
‘ I mention this principally to avoid being  
‘ taken for a speculative Projector. All that  
‘ I think necessary to say further about  
‘ myself in this Place, is, that I have the  
‘ Honour to be known to several of our No-  
‘ bility, very much distinguish’d by their  
‘ Worth and Capacity, and to some of our  
‘ Admirals that are very remarkable for the  
‘ good Service they have, upon many Oc-  
‘ casions, rendered their Country. And to  
‘ conclude, I am in my 32d Year, tho’ I  
‘ enjoy but a very mean State of Health,  
‘ and yet as ready to put my Hand and  
‘ Head, to farther the Execution of this  
‘ Enterprize, as he that hath it in Perfection.

As

As to Capt. *Pain's* Description of the *Spanish West-Indies*, I think I may be allow'd to say, it is a very exact and methodical Piece, consider'd as the Production of a Seaman: and what we have long wanted. For, though the Geographical Part be very short, yet his general Remarks, which precede it, cannot but be very useful to those who would be well inform'd of the Progress of Maritime Skill through the World's several Ages; as his concise Account of the *Spanish* Maxims of Government in their Dominions there, must teach those who consider them, more of the nature of Colonies; and of that Necessity there is, either to bind their Inhabitants, when grown to a flourishing Condition by an easy Administration to their Mother-Country, or like them, to keep them under and dejected, than any thing we have met with elsewhere. Though the last be a Course of the utmost Danger, since it naturally inspires a Spirit of Discontent, which may probably one Day break forth in an open Revolt; or will, at least, leave them in a fit Disposition to be wrought on by foreign Enemies to join in their Designs. And that our Author, Mr. *Pullen*, concurred in the same Opinion, is evident in his own Words; on another Occasion, *viz.* speaking of the properest Method to engage a Party in favour of his *Imperial Majesty*, (then called *Charles the Third*, of *Spain*)



*Spain*) who was supported in his Pretensions by the Allies ; he says :

‘ For which End it would be necessary  
 ‘ that King *Charles*, in his Proclamations  
 ‘ which he sends to those Parts, should give  
 ‘ all imaginable Encouragements to the na-  
 ‘ tive *Spaniards*, ( I mean those born in *A-*  
 ‘ *merica*, who are called *Criollo*’s by the  
 ‘ *Spaniards* that come from *Old Spain* ) pro-  
 ‘ mising them for the future an equal Share  
 ‘ of the Administration of the Government,  
 ‘ with other Privileges, such as may be  
 ‘ thought most proper to induce them to  
 ‘ stir in his Favour ; but in a more especial  
 ‘ manner to such Provinces as shall venture  
 ‘ to shew their Loyalty first. For this only  
 ‘ wants a Beginning, the Natives being a  
 ‘ hundred to one to the *Spaniards* of *Old*  
 ‘ *Spain*, who possess all the Posts of Power  
 ‘ and Profit, and lord it insufferably over  
 ‘ the *Criollo*’s, who, in return for it, hate  
 ‘ them mortally, and are always ready to  
 ‘ do them a Mischief. And this is rather  
 ‘ more visible amongst the Clergy than the  
 ‘ Laity ; for such of the *Criollo*’s as betake  
 ‘ themselves to the Church are hardly, if  
 ‘ ever, suffer’d to enjoy any Bishopricks,  
 ‘ or at best, some very inconsiderable ones,  
 ‘ and these in the remotest Provinces not  
 ‘ worth the Acceptance of the others. In  
 ‘ a Word, the Dissatisfaction is general  
 ‘ amongst the Natives.

viii      *The* INTRODUCTION.

‘ I am firmly of Opinion that K. *Charles*  
‘ hath no other Game to play in *America*;  
‘ for the *French* Faction have taken care to  
‘ put none into any Places of Consequence  
‘ there, but such of their Creatures as they  
‘ could depend upon, and have recall’d all  
‘ such as they had the least Suspicion of.  
‘ I think some of the late Tryals we have  
‘ made in these Parts may serve to con-  
‘ vince us of it.

I hope I have now said enough to shew,  
the following Memoirs are not the empty  
Trifles which this Title sometimes imposes  
on the World, and to engage the L vers  
of Trade and Navigation in Favour of  
Authors, who spent their Thoughts in en-  
deavouring to improve the Theory of those  
Sciences, as they had already their most  
vigorous Days in their Practice.



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A  
L E T T E R

To the Right Honourable

R O B E R T,  
Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, &c.



OUR Lordship having done me the Honour to ask my Opinion of our ensuing Trade to the *South Sea*, under the Restriction you have it conceded to by the *Spaniards*; I shall, according to my *Duty and Obligations*, give your Lordship my real and sincere Sentiments: And I humbly beg your Lordship to believe, that I bring all the affectionate Concern to this Work, and your Lordship's Service, that an honest Man ought to do, to *one from whom he receives his daily Bread*. I only complain of the shortness of the Conference I had the Honour to have with you, because it disables me from doing your Lordship the Service I fervently desire, it leaving me to guess or divine at the most material Heads I am to treat on.

As I then understood your Lordship, you have liberty to make a Settlement upon the *River of Plate*, either on the North side of the River, or on

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some



some Island in it, where the *Spaniards* are not in actual Possession ; in the next Place you have permission to settle Factories in any of their Cities in the *South Sea*, where you judge it proper for carrying on your Trade, and have procured very large Liberties and Privileges, for the better Encouragement of it. These foregoing Articles I take to be the Substance of what your Lordship then told me, and shall accordingly deliver my Sentiments upon them to the best of my Understanding, and in as few Words as possible ; for 'tis necessary to draw out this Argument dry, for if so, 'tis so very fertile in its Nature, there would be no End of writing.

All understanding Men must confess, that *Great Britain* cannot make a Settlement in any Place upon the Face of the Earth, from whence reasonably it may expect to reap so many Advantages, as from one situated upon the *River of Plate*. If we could have perswaded the *Spaniards* to make over to us entirely their Possession and Right to that noble River, it had been an invaluable Acquisition ; but as 'tis, in my humble Opinion it will prove a thing of mighty Moment and Advantage to this Nation, especially if wisely managed in the Beginning ; for if we commit any Blunders in the setting out, they will prove very hard to retrieve, besides the known ill Consequences of laying a Colony under any Scandal in its Infancy.

Having said a great deal concerning this River in some of my other Papers, I have the less to say now ; but I then, for very good Reasons, omitted several Things of the last Consequence, in hopes to have the Honour to communicate them personally to your Lordship ; and now having as good an Opportunity as I could reasonably wish, I shall insert them here.

The

The *River of Plate* is compos'd of three great Rivers, which come from different Parts of that large Continent, to meet with each other about 100 Leagues from the Sea, viz. The *Paragua*, the *Grand Parpua*, and *Rio Negro*; the two first come from those Countries that lay behind or to the Eastward of *Peru*, but the last, *Rio Negro*, comes through that Country that lays behind the Province or Captainship, (as the *Portuguese* term them) of *St. Vincent*, or more vulgarly *Rio de Janeiro*, which is the very Country from whence they get those immense Sums of Gold that come yearly from *Brazil* to *Europe*; and I can prove beyond any possibility of Contradiction, that *Rio Negro* runs either through or very near the Place where the *Portuguese* at present are working upon the best and richest Mines that were ever yet discover'd, tho' indeed the whole Country (now the *Portuguese* are expert in discovering them) proves a very Bed or Receptacle of Gold, the richest perhaps the World ever heard of. Therefore 'tis obvious to every Eye, that any Nation settled upon the *River of Plate*, has a very commodious and certain Way to the *Portuguese* Gold Mines, by that means, or Way of *Rio Negro*. This was the principal occasion of the *Portuguese's* endeavouring to settle themselves upon the Island of *St. Gabriel* in that River, in order either to keep that Back-way from being known, or if known, from being attempted by their Enemies; but the *Spaniards* at *Buenos Ayres* not liking their new Neighbours, and perhaps thinking they had as much Occasion to use Precautions as the *Portuguese*, attack'd this new Settlement, before they were prepar'd to receive them, and chased them away. This had like to have occasioned a War betwixt the two Kingdoms, which at last was accommodated by the dextrous Address of the Duke of *Giovinazo*, who was sent

for that purpose by the Court of *Spain*, and to appease the King of *Portugal*. To insist any longer upon the Advantages that may be made of this Inlet into one of the richest Countries in the World, I think is both impertinent and needless ; for undoubtedly my Superiors know how to make the best use of it. I have treated in some Papers of the Trade you may infallibly have with the Coast of *Brazil* from this River, if 'tis not our own Faults, therefore shall say nothing further upon that Head here.

But perchance your Lordship may desire to know, how it came to pass that the *Spaniards* never endeavoured this War, to attack them from *Buenos Ayres* ? To which I answer, that the *Spaniards* have not Force sufficient either at *Buenos Ayres*, or the Places adjacent, to undertake it : Besides this, I believe that during all the last War, they extreamly fear'd being attack'd themselves, either by us or the *Dutch*, therefore were very well content to live peaceably, and to give as little Occasion as possible of being spoken of.

Now as to the Place where we ought to begin the *Settlement*, and to fortify ourselves in, I by all means advise it to be done on the main Land, on the North Side of the River, much rather than in any of the Islands in the *River*, as the *Portuguese* practices ; for tho' 'tis one of the healthiest Places perhaps in the World, yet all fresh Water Islands are aguish and unhealthy ; but there are a multitude of Reasons besides this, to prefer the Continent before any Island, which I omit, because every indifferent Capacity may discover them at first View.

The *Spaniards* themselves, when they first begun to settle in this River, did it on the North side, because they found the Soil infinitely to be preferr'd before that of the South side, but at last  
were



were oblig'd to pass to the other Side, because of the intolerable Inconveniency of passing and re-passing that large River whenever their Occasions call'd them to *Pern*, which happened daily.

Now 'tis time to speak of the Fortifications; which ought to be one of the very best kind, an *Octagon* or *Fort-Royal*, with all its necessary Out-works, capable of entertaining very commodiously 1500 Men in Garrison, and too great Care cannot be taken in procuring an able Engineer. I solemnly protest I know not one in her Majesty's Service that I esteem equal to the Undertaking; for I believe no Nation was ever so ill serv'd in that respect, or entertained such ignorant Wretches for that Branch of the Service, as we here in *England* did. But I am afraid I have scar'd your Lordship with proposing to erect such a large Fortification at such Distance. All I can say in answer to it is this, that if you don't judge the Place will countervail the Charge, I would advise you never to think of settling there, for you can never be in any moderate Safety with a less Force. And what makes me persist more obstinately in my Opinion, is this, that I look upon this *Design* to be a *Child* of your *Lordship's*; therefore I would have you leave to Posterity, even at this Distance, an undeniable Instance of the superiority and extensiveness of your Genius, and at the same time it will serve to reproach the supine Laziness and Ignorance of our Ancestors, who, for want of using this Precaution in settling our Colonies in the *American* Islands, we have reason to curse at this Day.

Can any thing serve to illustrate this Truth more forceable than the continual Losses and Disgraces we have suffered this War by the *French* in *America*, who have but *two Places* \* there of any Consideration, which we never attack'd but to our Shame and Infamy, when at the same time they  
never

never miscarried in any of their Attempts upon us; but, I think, I have said enough upon this melancholy Subject; I am sure it brings the Blood into my Face with Indignation, when I reflect upon it.

'Tis now time to come to the *second* Article, the Liberty of having our Factors or Agents in their principal Cities in *South America*. The more I consider this Article, the greater is my Astonishment, for I cannot think it possible that the *Spaniards* ever design to execute this Part of the Peace faithfully, for 'tis clogg'd with so many invincible Obstacles, that, in my humble Sense, the Wit of Man cannot find a Method to surmount them. The utter Destruction of old *Spain* lays so apparently in view, and lies in so full a Bar to the Execution of this Article, that I find myself under a Necessity to avoid Reasoning upon a thing I plainly confess I don't understand. But if your Lordship pleases to do me the Honour to inform me how the Treaty is circumstanc'd in this particular Article, I shall with great Affection and Pleasure contribute my poor Mite towards the making it succeed happily.

But if ever it comes to that length, that the *South Sea* Company shall have occasion to send their Servants to reside amongst the *Spaniards* in *America*, the utmost Care and Prudence must be employ'd in procuring able Men to send in the beginning, for if the *Spaniards* should have reason to entertain a despicable Opinion of them, it would be the work of an Age to retrieve it. The *Spanish* Merchants (*ceteris paribus*) are certainly the fittest Men to be employ'd, but it is fit they have other good Qualities besides that of meer Merchants, for it will be of infinite Advantage to the Company's Affairs, to make a strong Impression upon the Minds of the *Spaniards* to their Advantage in the beginning.



ning, for they are a sullen *Saturnine* People, that retain very obstinately the first Idea's they receive.

But if the *South Sea* Company (for their Sins, and because they can have them cheap) send such unlick'd Cubs as the *East India* Company do every Year, then, without pretending to any great share of Witchcraft, I here foretell them, the first they send will be the last too.

Your Lordship, since the writing of this foregoing Essay, having been pleas'd to hint to me the manner of carrying on this Trade, I shall make some Observations upon it, and so make an End.

This Method will certainly introduce a Trade, how considerable I will not pretend to determine; but it will be liable to these two grand Inconveniences; first, of exorbitant Bribes, which, of necessity, must be given to the Governors of the Cities where you trade, and to a Rabble of other inferior Officers, who are true Sons of the *Horse-Leech*. Secondly, This will give a great Opportunity to your Servants to abuse you, for you can never pretend to dispute any Sums they charge under the Head of this Article.

Thus, with that Sincerity which I thought became a Man towards his greatest Benefactor, I have laid before your Lordship what, in my poor Judgment, seem'd most likely to satisfy you in respect of the Trade, which it is intended this new Company are to carry on; and shall therefore conclude with reminding your Lordship, that Skill and Integrity are two Qualities which, of necessity, must adorn the Directors and Managers of such a Commerce, or it will never produce any great Gains to the Company, whatever it may do to those who are employed by it. Such are the Difficulties, my Lord, which attend the execution  
of



of this Scheme ; and such Difficulties can alone be conquered by your Lordship, who have already overcome greater, in bringing Things to the Situation in which they now are. If what I have said should draw upon me any new Command of writing from your Lordship, you shall in that receive the same Proofs of Obedience which have been hitherto, on all Occasions, given by,

My LORD,

*Your obliged and*

*faithful humble Servant,*

JOHN PULLEN.

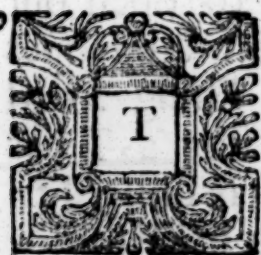
ME.



# MEMOIRS

O F

Governor *PULLEN*.



IS now almost three Years ago since one of our Admirals, who I have the Honour to be acquainted with, desired me to draw him up an Account what might be probably effected in the *South Sea*, with a small Squadron of Men of War, for the Advantage of *England*.

I would gladly have persuaded him to employ an abler Pen, that so necessary an Undertaking might not suffer by my insufficiency; alledging likewise the very unfit Condition I was then in to undertake it, being at Death's Door with a long Fit of Sickness. But these Reasons only produc'd some Compliments, which I know myself unworthy of; so in conclusion was oblig'd to

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comply

comply with his Request, or appear ungrateful to a Man that had sav'd my Life by his very great Civilities in my Passage home with him.

When he knew I had began it, being sensible of my weak Condition, he daily sent his Secretary to assist me in writing it fair over; and still as I finish'd a Part, I sent it him to peruse. But in this Interim of Time, happened the Invasion of *Scotland*, and then he was ordered to Sea upon a very short Warning, and afterwards to the *Streights*, without any possibility of my seeing him, because of my Sickness which still continued very severe upon me; and so the Business seem'd to be laid by, for some other Opportunity, when it may please God to open our Eyes. For myself, I utterly lost all Hopes of ever being serviceable in a Thing I had so earnestly desired; because, as soon as I was able to stand upon my Legs, I was oblig'd to go abroad again to seek Bread for my Family; but now being come home, and at leisure, I have bent my Thoughts again on the same Subject, and have put them in the best Method I can.

To make this Subject more intelligible to them that do me the Honour to read these Papers, I think it not amiss, to touch a little upon Trade in general, but more especially upon that Part of it that relates to *Spain*; but I shall do it in as few Words as possible.

The Trade as well as the Wealth of *England*, begun apparently to spread it self in the happy Days of *Queen Elizabeth*; and the



the Quarrel she had with the *Hanse Towns* fortunately conduc'd to it; for it put her Subjects upon forming of Companies for Commerce in foreign Parts, which, how well they succeeded, every one knows; and the Riches and Maritime Force of *England*, increased in a very short time beyond Imagination, to the great Admiration of our Neighbours, who sufficiently envy'd us. *France* no sooner conceiv'd the lofty Thoughts of forming a Western Monarchy, but she began to invent Means to ruin our Commerce, and rival our Power at Sea, both which they were extreamly enrag'd at, as Obstacles in their Way not easily to be surmounted; and how well they succeeded in both ought speedily to be examin'd, least it comes under Consideration when 'tis too late. The *Spanish* Trade was always look'd upon as the most Beneficial to *England*, as taking off most our Manufactures, and returning us Bullion; and I believe we traded for more Value with the *Spaniards* every Year, than all the rest of *Europe*. This Trade enrich'd *England* prodigiously, and that chiefly by Means of the Woollen Manufacture, which our Neighbours, neither the *French* nor the *Dutch*, could possibly rival us in, before the Death of *Charles II.* of *Spain*; but since that time the Affairs of *Europe* have taken such an amazing Turn, that we are in the utmost Danger of losing this our darling Manufacture, and Support of our native Country.

I am very sensible, that the very best Designs, tho' ever so consonant to Reason in the *Theory* or *Practice* in the performance, are still liable to the Cavils and Objections of ingenious and perverse Men, whose secret Wishes and Interest perhaps centers not in the Welfare of their native Country. But I here declare, that I am able to take off all reasonable Objections to what I propose, and shew either by Example, or undeniable Reason, that its both feasible, and ought to be undertaken, as an Affair of the utmost Consequence to *Great Britain*. Therefore to proceed to the Design or Project here mention'd, I shall first begin with what is necessary to be done to ruin their Commerce in the *South Sea*, *i. e.* (the *French*, who at that time brought home the Plate) which is the most beneficial to them, and consequently most prejudicial to us; to effect which, I propose the sending thither eight, fifty and sixty Gun Ships the next Season; and for the Manning of which Squadron, I propose but half the Complement of Seamen that are allowed to such Ships by the Rules of the Navy, and that the rest of the Number should be made up with Soldiers, either Marines, or Detachments out of marching Regiments, as the Government shall judge most expedient, provided they be Men acquainted with Service, and if they have serv'd some Campaigns, so much the better, because they will be less subject to  
Sickness,

Sickness, and not so soon discouraged with Hardships as raw Men, which probably they often may have occasion to have their Patience exercised with in so long and remote a Voyage ; and the Reason why I propose so few Seamen, is, because most of the Soldiers will be made Seamen by the length of the Voyage, and be much more serviceable both for landing, of which there will be frequent Occasion, as well as for small Shot upon the Decks in an Engagement, at which they are much more expert than our Sailors.

I am concern'd, that I am oblig'd here to take notice of the great Ignorance of our Seamen (generally speaking) in the use of small Arms, which, by a great blindness, they have too much neglected of late Days, and endeavour to confirm one another in the Contempt of them, by alledging, that in loading the great Guns with Cartridge-shot, you perform the same thing better, than which nothing is more false in Fact, and is one of the chief Reasons the *French* are so bold in boarding our seventy and eighty Gun Ships ; for they know that our Seamen are so unskilful in the Use of the Musquet, that when they are beat from their Artillery, they seldom give them much trouble afterwards, and what Resistance they have found upon our Men of War's Decks of late time, hath mostly been from our Marines, who have very justly acquir'd



a great Reputation, and are certainly a most useful Body of People, and the Motto which I have seen upon some of their Caps (*SINE HIS NIHIL*) is now literally true. I affirm, this is one of the principal Reasons that makes the *French* despise our Seamen, and hath expos'd us to such loss both of Reputation and Shipping, as hath not been known but of late Days, and deserves a very serious Consideration, in order to procure a speedy and effectual Remedy. If I should say, that the Fire-Arms that are put on board our Men of War are both too heavy, and too short, and the Locks good for nothing, and that the *French* extreamly excel us in the commodiousness of their Fire-Arms in all respects, I should advance nothing but Truth.

The Season of the Year proper to begin their Voyage, is from the First to the middle of *September*; but I advise by all means, that they should set out by the fifteenth of *August*, that they may arrive some small time in the *South Seas*, before the *French* Trade, that goes the same Year. For by this means, one could hardly fail of destroying all the Ships bound thither that Season, and perhaps meet with some returning home; for they must observe the same time of Year, and return by the same Rout out of those Seas, that they went into them by.

To make this still plainer, it will not be amiss to set down here the Rout they always

ways Use going thither, which is by, or round *Cape Horn*, the southermost Promontory of all *America*; for they never venture thro' the *Streights of Magellan*, because they find now by Experience, that for one Ship that gets through, three are forc'd back, and so lose their Voyage that Year, to the Ruin of their Owners; but having sufficient Sea Room the other way, they are never expos'd to any such Risque. After they have doubled *Cape Horne*, they steer directly for the Island of *Juan Fernando's*, to refresh their Men, who by the Time they get thither want sufficiently; and likewise to take in fresh Water, for their first Stock can't fail of being near expired before they reach this Place. I have taken a great deal of Pains to inform myself of this Matter, from several *French* Sailors that have perform'd the Voyage, who all agreed that they never miss'd that Island if they could help it, because their Men are almost all in the *Scurvy* by that time, and it would infallibly occasion a Mutiny, if the Captain should refuse touching there.

It seems necessary, having mentioned this Island, that I should give you a Description of it, the rather because of the Advantages I propose from the planting it. The Isle of *Juan* or *John Fernando's*, lies in the Lat. 34 Degrees 45 min. its Circuit may be about 38 or 40 *English* Miles, and its distance from the Continent of *South America* 400. Its Soil is indifferent upon the Hills, but its

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Vallies are fine, fruitful and pleasant, interspersed with *Savannahs*, as they are usually called here, that is, natural Meadows, which are common in the *West Indies*, and which I have mentioned elsewhere in the Description of *Buenos Ayres*. These Vallies therefore are doubtless capable of great Improvement, since there need be no question of their producing every Thing which is agreeable to this Climate; and tho', as I have said, the Hills are in their Soil unfruitful, yet I would not be understood by that to exclude Trees, of which there are many, and some which might be of great use; but what principally induced me to mention the settling of it, was the breeding Cattle and raising Fruits of the Earth, and by Tillage, by means whereof great Advantage might accrue to the Inhabitants, since the Ships which pass the *Streights of Magellan*, or by *Cape Horn*, constantly touch here, by reason that their Crew having by this time contracted an *Epidemick Scurvy*, the Captains missing this Island might, as I have said, occasion a Mutiny. I foresee one Objection which would be made to this Proposal, and that is, the Difficulty there would be in maintaining such a Settlement at such a Distance from *Britain*, and from any *British Colonies*: But to this I answer, That never any Island was more capable of being fortified so as to resist any Enemy who could attack it in that Part of the World. There are in it but two Bays capable



capable of receiving Ships, which are both at the East End, and a small Charge would soon build such Works as would render it impracticable for any to land there against the Will of its Inhabitants; the West End, which is the highest, rockiest, and by far the most barren Part of the Island, hath yet *this Advantage, that it is of such natural Strength, a small Body of Men might defend it, even against the greatest Force that could be brought against it.*

Seals are found here in the greatest Plenty of any Part of the World, and their Skins are of an extraordinary Value from the fineness of *their* Furs. Their Fat makes very good Train Oil, and much better still is made of what is called *the Sea Lyon*, which is a Creature much bigger than the Seal, and tho' amphibious, like them, yet without a Fur. The Number of these Creatures, which is frequently so great as entirely to cover the Shore, sufficiently demonstrates the Plenty of Fish which must be on its Coasts, those amphibious Animals living on little else, and indeed there are here as fine, and in as great Quantity, as could be wished. To these Advantages may be added, the great abundance of Goats, which have been produced by three or four which were left here by its first Discoverer. All which put together, would render it no disagreeable Place for those, who, in the Voyage I propose, have no other View than settling somewhere in

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the World, to plant themselves here, where they would be sure of finding most of the Necessaries of Life ready to their Hands; the Grass of the *Savannahs* in this Island not being like those throughout the rest of *America*, long and flaggy, but thick and short, extremely fit for grazing, insomuch that a very competent Judge avers, he has not carried his Calculation too high, in averring that these *Savannahs* are now capable of maintaining a thousand Head of Cattle, besides Goats, who grow fattest on the most barren part of the Island.

*John Fernando* discover'd this Isle, in the Voyage he was making from *Lima* to *Baldivia*, and being exceedingly pleased with its Situation, Soil and Climate, resolv'd to settle it, judging that its Produce might very well Support four or five hundred Families. On his return to *Lima*, he endeavour'd to procure a Patent for that Purpose. In his first Instance he was favourably receiv'd; but whether it clash'd in any degree with the private Interest of the *Spanish* Viceroy, or whether it be a Maxim in the *Spanish* Policy, not to settle any Place in *America*, in which are no Mines, I shall not pretend to determine, but shall only add, that it has continued uninhabited ever since, except now and then Somebody, who has been left when the Ships watered there, and who have found a way to Subsist tolerably till they have been taken in again by some other Ship, that came on the same Errand.

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But I have dwelt long enough on this Subject of Planting it. Let us next observe, of what Use in its present State it might be to our Squadron; and in the first Place it is evident, that while our Ships remain'd here, it would be next to an impossibility for them to miss those for whom they waited. But besides, we should not lose a Moment's Time here by such a View, more than is necessary to all Ships that come on the same Design; and we should likewise have an Opportunity of fitting up our small Craft, design'd for landing of Men, in order to the surprizing such Places as it should be resolv'd to attempt. Nor can there be a more proper Conjecture, than while the Fleet lies here, to concert the Scheme of Action while they remain in the *South Seas*.

The Squadron having done this, ought to sail for *Arica*, on the Coast of *Peru*, and by sending a nimble Sailor a head, endeavour to learn, by taking some some Prisoners, whether the Plate be yet there which is brought from the Mines of *Potozy* to this Place; for *Arica* is the Barcadeer to *Potozy*; thither the King's Galleons come once a Year to fetch it up in the first place to *Callas*, and from thence, after some stay, to *Panama*, from whence it is sent over Land to *Porto Bello*, where it is put on board the Galleons which convey it to *Spain*.



Now if it should happen that the Plate be there (as 'tis odds but it is) I advise, without more ado, to land and attack the Place, and 'twill be a Miracle to me if you can fail taking it: For Captain *Sharpe* took this Place with no more than 80 Men, tho' the whole Force the Country could raise was there to defend it. But there was a little paltry Fort at the End of the Town, that whilst his small Force were attacking it, the People whom he had just before beat out of the Town return'd, and charg'd him at his Back; and tho' he beat them out again four or five times, his small Number so diminish'd by these repeated Attacks, that he was forc'd to make his retreat, tho' he saw, and was in Possession of for some time, more Silver than would have loaded four or five such Ships as his was. You may see an Account of this whole Matter in Mr. *Ringrose's* Journal, who was one of Captain *Sharpe's* Crew at that time, and is printed here under the Name of the *History of the Buccaneers*. But if nothing is to be done at this time here, then sail immediately to *Cape Passo*, under the *Equinoctial Line*, where you can hardly fail of taking every Ship that comes from the Coast of *Peru* to *Panama*; and the whole Trade of the *South Seas* consists in going and coming from this last Port to *Peru*, as 'tis well known to every one that knows any thing of these Seas.

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In this Cruize you will meet with the Provisions that must Support you in these Parts; for the City of *Panama* is wholly sustain'd by the Provisions sent from the several Ports of *Pera*, as Wheat Flower from *Guanchaco*, Wine, Bacon, and Marmalade from *Pisco*, and Chocolate from *Guiaquil*, Sugar and Oil from *Hillo*. In my Opinion, these foregoing Articles may afford a comfortable Subsistence for our People, during their stay there, and what they need never fear meeting with in sufficient Quantities, if their Commanders understand the proper Methods for intercepting it.

The Provisions the *Spaniards* are forc'd to send for the Support of this great City, was the Reason they could never hinder the *Buccaneers* subsisting in these Seas, which they endeavour'd by all means within their Power; and I am of Opinion, that they might probably effect it, were it not for the continual Supplies they are oblig'd to send to *Panama*, which can never be dispensed with; for if they should take such a Resolution, that great City wou'd certainly be famish'd. I have dwelt longer upon this Article than otherwise I design'd; to convince People that a Squadron need neither perish by Hunger, or be driven by it out of these Seas, if they know how to take the proper Means to prevent it: But I shall say more upon this Head, when I come to answer the Objections against the impracticableness of this Voyage, which

which I propose to do in the sequel of this Discourse.

After the Squadron hath made what stay they find convenient in this last Station, they ought to proceed to the Bay of *Panama*, where there are several small Islands that abounds with Refreshments and Water, and very good Anchoring in several Places. Here they will intercept all Ships bound for this Port, and likewise a great Number of small Barks from *Natta*, *La Velia*, and *Puebla Nova*, which are loaden with Fowls, Hogs, Mantego, and *Indian Corn*, for the Use of *Panama*; and you may attack *Panama* it self, or the Golden Mines of *St. Maria*, or both, according to the Information you receive from the Prisoners you take; and indeed, if you staid long here, the City of *Panama* would infallibly be starved.

At this Place, in my Opinion, they should divide the Squadron, after they have perform'd all the Service they can here, and send four Ships to Cruize on the Coast of *New Spain*, in order to take the *Acapulco* Ship; two of these Ships must cruize off the Mouth of *Acapulco* Harbour, or rather to the Northward of it; and the other two must take their Station near Cape *St. Lucar* in *Callifornia*, which is always the first Land the *Manillia* Ship makes coming home, except she hath reason to fear an Enemy there, and then she endeavours to make the Land as near the Harbour's Mouth as she can;



can; for which Reason I have plac'd two Ships in each Station. The time she arrives never exceeds ten Days before or after *Christmas*, which makes it almost impossible to miss of her, if the Disposition I have here laid down be followed. They will likewise have a chance to take the Outward bound *Acapulco* Ship, if they take care not to be discover'd from the Coast, for she never fails to begin her Voyage betwixt the tenth of *December*, and the tenth of *February*; and is most prodigious rich in Pieces of Eight.

Now to return to the four Ships which we left in the Bay of *Panama*, I think they ought to take this Opportunity to go over to the *Galleppagos*, where they will find both great Store of excellent Refreshments for their sick Men, and Ports where they may Carreen, and refit their Ships, withall manner of Security; therefore the four Ships sent to look out for the *Acapulco* Ship, must be appointed to Rendezvous here after their Cruize is out. Now I have pointed at all the principal Things that can be undertaken at Sea in these Parts, but have omitted a great many Enterprizes that might be form'd against the rich Towns upon the Coast of *Peru*, because I would not swell this Discourse to too great a Bulk.

First 'tis objected, and with a great deal of seeming Reason, that having no Ports there, where the Squadron can either Revictual, or Refit, upon any Occasion, that therefore they would

would run the greatest Risque imaginable of starving, or having the Ships in a little time render'd unserviceable.

To which I answer, That if they please to make Use of the following Advice, they need neither fear the one or the other; *Viz.* To send all such Ships as you take in your Cruize, between *Peru* and *Panama* (loaden with Provisions) over to the *Galleppagos*, with one of your Frigates, with Orders to chuse out the best Harbour, and where there is the greatest plenty of Refreshments, and there unrig your Prizes you think fit to send, and form a Magazine, which indeed the Place it self invites you to; for you need never fear the *Spaniards* disturbing you for two Reasons; first, because they have no Naval Force, tho' joyn'd by the *French*, capable to dispute the Sea with you. Secondly, because they know hardly any thing of these Islands but the Name, dreading them extremely, and telling strange romantick Stories of Whirlpools and Currents, that have destroy'd several of their Ships that had the imprudence to come too near them in their Voyages. You may see more of this in Mr. *Ringrose's* Journal, and indeed here is so many of them, that it would not be an easy Matter to find that out which we should pitch upon, except by chance. The Ignorance of the *Spaniards* in these Parts, is hardly credible.

I say, hither they must send all the Ships they take loaden with Provisions, Timber, or any other Stores, that may prove useful to them whilst they stay here; and the very Ships themselves may serve for Hulks to clean by, and such of their Masts and Yards as are large enough, be preserv'd for the Use of our own Ships. The only reason why the Privateers never did this, in my Opinion, was, becaule nobody had Authority enough to make Part of the Men stay here to look after the Stores; for there might indeed happen among that unruly sort of People forty Accidents that might Occasion their being left there for ever. But that they made other very good uses of them, is very plain to them that know any thing of Captain Davis's Voyage, or Captain Sharpe's, or indeed of any of the Rovers that ever enter'd those Seas for thirty Years last past.

And 'tis worth considering, that Captain Davis staid in these Seas three Years, and twice took the very Ships equipp'd out to fight him, which had the very best Men they were able to pick out of all Peru, and after surprizing several of their rich Towns, return'd to these very uninhabited Islands, where he fitted, and victualled his Ship for his return home, which he happily perform'd tho' he us'd none of the Precautions I have here recommended. Captain Sharpe did yet much more in a Ship of less Force, for after having made a good Voyage (as they call it)



he sail'd to *Nicoya*, a small Village that consists all of Carpenters, and surpriz'd it, and made the very *Spanish* Carpenters take down his Ship's Poop, and alter his Main Deck, to make her fitter for the Sea; and tho' the *Spaniards* could not but know of it, they durst never give him any Interruption; and when his Work was done to his Mind, he very generously rewarded his *Spaniards*, and dismiss'd them, and afterwards successfully perform'd his intended Voyage to the *West Indies*.

Thus I could name several others that have carried their Point, in spite of all the Opposition the *Spaniards* could make, and if it be objected; that they were only in small Numbers, therefore could better subsist. I answer, they perfectly mistake the Matter, for the Force I propose could, upon occasion, ravage the best and most plentiful Country in these Parts in the face of the Sun. But Things may be easily kept from coming to these Extremities.

The second Objection is, that the *Spaniards* or *French* could not fail of being inform'd by their good Friends here of the intended Expedition, and so render it useless and unsuccessful. To this I answer, that if it was to be carried on in a Method I could propose, they could never know of it, except it was betray'd by them that only have the Power to put it in execution; but suppose it was, I can tell you they could  
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ward against very few of the intended Blows; for in the first Place, they could send no Silver from *Peru* to *Panama*, and so the Galleons would come empty; and pray consider the Consequence of that. In the next place, you must of necessity ruin the *French* Trade during the time you stay'd there; neither could they prevent, with all their Knowledge, your taking their Seaport Towns, or the homeward bound *Acapulco* Ship. In my Opinion, it could only hinder your taking the Galleons going between *Arica* and *Panama*, or the *Spaniards* bringing their Silver to *Arica* from the Mines; and as to the *French* sending a superior Squadron after us, 'tis not so easily done as suppos'd, for Reasons too long to insert here, but such as I shall be very ready to produce when desir'd. In my poor Opinion, these foregoing Objections are the only ones of Weight that can be brought against this Proposal.

I have yet left untouch'd a most noble Design that may be form'd upon *Chili*, a Country that the *Spaniards* have but hold on by the Border. King *Charles* the Second seem'd to aim at something of this kind, by his sending Sir *John Narborough* thither in the *Sweepstakes*, to discover it; but the *Spanish Don*, who went with him in the Nature of a Pilot, and without doubt put the King upon the Enterprize, after his being put ashore in the Man of War's Boat,

where he desir'd, never appear'd more; upon which, and some other Disasters, Sir *John* return'd home. But 'tis certain, this is one of the best and richest Countries in *America*, where if we could Settle ourselves, we should prodigiously enrich our native Country; and, for my part, I don't think it impossible to be done.

In my Opinion, the proper time to undertake this will be in returning home; for if the Design does not succeed, it will not put you a League out of your Way; but I advise by all means, to attack the City of *Coquimbo*, which is situated upon the very Confines of *Chili*, because you will certainly find here several *Chilean* Slaves, who, if managed dextrously, will prove exceeding serviceable; and likewise you can't fail of being informed of the present Posture of Affairs in that Country, and if it prove impracticable at this time to prosecute the Project any further, the Squadron may take in their Stores of fresh Water, and other excellent Provisions, for their Voyage home, for there is not a better Port for that purpose in all these Seas. Captain *Sharpe* took this Place with ninety Men, and tho' discover'd before he landed, met with very little Resistance.

To make what I here advance more intelligible, it will be necessary to give a short Account of the *Spanish* Affairs in *Chili*. This noble Country, which all the *Spanish* Authors



Authors that have wrote concerning it, compare both for temperature of Air, and productions of the Earth, to *France*, was first search'd into by *Petro Baldivia*, some considerable time after the Conquest of *Peru*, and the principal City, if not the only one the *Spaniards* have at this time in that Country, is call'd after his Name. He found the Country to abound with the finest Gold in the World, which caus'd a great many People from *Peru* to join themselves with him. By this means three considerable Cities were built and fortify'd in a very small time in that Country, viz. *Baldivia*, *Ozorno* and *Castro*.

After the *Spaniards* had settled themselves securely, as they thought, from any Attempts of the *Indians*, according to their usual Custom, they began to treat the Natives of the Country in a most inhumane manner; but they presently found themselves mistaken, and were convinced they had to do with a People the bravest, and most martial of any in all *America*; for they gave the *Spaniards* several Battles, and always routed them, and at last took their very Cities, and utterly expelled them the Country, in one of the Battles, wherein they not only defeated the *Spaniards*, but likewise took *Baldivia* their General Prisoner, and serv'd him as the *Parthians* did *Cræssus*, pouring melted Gold down his Throat,

Throat, and telling him, at last they had found a way to satisfy his Avarice.

In this interim the *Dutch* made a Voyage to the *South Sea*, with four Ships from *Brazil*, which was then almost all in their Possession, and touch'd at *Baldivia*, which at that time was not resettled by the *Spaniards*. The Natives flock'd down to them in very great Numbers, perceiving they were not *Spaniards* by their Complexions and Hair, and were overjoy'd when they understood that they were in War with them, and would assist them against their common Enemy upon all Occasions. This good Understanding lasted several Days with abundance of interchangeable good Offices, till unluckily the *Dutch* began to be very inquisitive after Gold, which as soon as the *Chileans* perceiv'd, they immediately abandoned the Port, and would never afterwards converse with them, notwithstanding all the Endeavours the *Dutch* could use.

After this imprudent Negotiation, perceiving they could never retrieve the Blunder they had made, they set sail and returned to *Brazil*, being only four Months and some Days upon the whole Voyage, which is a remark worth taking notice of. The *Spaniards* some time after this Voyage was made, resettled *Baldivia*, not being able to support the thoughts of loosing so rich and pleasant a Country entirely, or perhaps  
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fearing the *Dutch* might find means to seize upon it, being then in open War with them, who besides depriving them of the vast Quantity of Gold they us'd formerly to draw from this Country, would prove troublesome Neighbours to *Peru*.

These, and the like Considerations, made the *Spaniards* resolve to re-establish a new Colony at *Baldivia*, at all Hazards, and without doubt it was done with great Trouble and Expence; for by all the Relations I ever could procure, (and I have been very inquisitive) I can't find the *Spaniards* have any other Settlements in the whole Country. But this I am sure of, that the War continues betwixt the *Spaniards* and the Natives as fierce and bloody as ever. And Mr. *Funnel* says, in the Year 1704. they durst not touch at the Island *La Moucha*, which is on the Coast of *Chili* close to the Main Land, because, says he, we should run great danger of being murdered by the Inhabitants, who are always in War with the *Spaniards*, and think all White Men to be such; but grant they do, there may be found means out to undeceive them; but I think the Voyage I have quoted sufficiently, refutes that Opinion.

I shall only mention a Particular or two more of the *Chileans*, and then come to what I propose concerning them. Amongst the several Nations that inhabit this Province, and are at War with the *Spaniards*, there



there is one call'd the *Auraques*, who, the *Spaniards* say, are so valiant, that they attack them whenever they meet with them, tho' inferior sometimes considerably in Number; and know not, at least have not, the use of Fire-Arms, and notwithstanding these disadvantages, generally are successful; inso-much that the *Spaniards* stand in great fear of them; and add, that they are so good at imitation in what relates to War, that they learn to Camp and Decamp, and Intrench themselves in places of Advantage, to make a handsome Retreat, or an Assault, with having but once seen them practis'd, and sometimes make Improvements upon their Teachers, to their great Cost, who heartily curse them for their Docility. A famous *Spanish* Poet during the time he serv'd in the *Chilean* War, compos'd a Poem, much esteem'd by those of his Nation, call'd *H. Arapcano*.

Now I propose, that the Commander of this Squadron, should have Instructions, to endeavour by all possible Means, to get a Conference with the Natives of this Province, which if he can bring about, the Business will be done to his Hand, for as soon as they perceive he is an Enemy to the *Spaniards*, he will want no Assistance they can give him, if he gives Orders that neither Gold nor Silver be mention'd in any Discourse held with them. After this, he may either attack *Baldivia*, in conjunction with them, or seize on  
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any other Port he finds convenient, where he may repair to in Case of Need, either for Victuals, which this Country abounds with, or for other Occasions; but if he takes *Baldivia*, which I recommend, if practicable, (for I believe it's in a good Posture of Defence, because they have an Enemy at their very Gates, who they stand in great dread of) in such a Case, it would be requisite to leave a Garrison, a small one would serve the turn, whilst the Squadron cruiz'd in those Seas, because the *Spaniards* can't go thither by Land, and durst not peep by Sea, during the Time it stay'd in those Parts.

But when it was thought convenient to return home, it ought to be provided with a very good Garrison, for this Country is well worth the keeping Possession of, and would mightily enrich our native Country; and take off a great Quantity of our Woollen Manufacture, because here is a severe Winter of four Months; and I am verily persuaded, if a prudent Man should be left Governour, that cultivated a good Correspondence with the Natives, that the *Spaniards*, tho' assisted by the *French*, would never dare to stir a Foot to retake it, or if they did, would be unsuccessful, they would be so harass'd, and plagu'd by the *Indians*, their implacable Enemies, who if they had Fire-Arms, would certainly be too hard for them on all occasions, Indeed 'tis requisite this Acquisition (if made) should be encourag'd from *England*, as a thing of the greatest Im-  
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portance; and a sufficient Number of Men, with all other Necessaries, be sent away by the first Opportunity. For

Besides the Riches of this Country, you would infallibly, in time of Peace, have a stolen Trade with *Peru*, for all sorts of Woollen Goods, as we formerly had from *Jamaica* with the *Spaniards* inhabiting the Ports of the North Seas, and the *Indians*, in a short time, would be brought to supply you with Gold, when they saw you paid them for it in Goods they wanted and valued as Cloaths, Arms and Toys. These *Indians* must always be treated as a free People, and all Manner of Satisfaction given them upon all Occasions, that's reasonable: I should imagine this following way, to be a good Method to begin a Friendship with them.

Upon taking any Towns upon the Coast of *Peru*, to enquire narrowly if there be any *Chilean* Slaves, and if you meet with any such, as you certainly will, to send them aboard, and treat them with all imaginable good Usage, and carry them to their native Country, and set them ashore, having first engaged them to settle a Correspondence betwixt you and their Countrymen, which, without doubt, they will readily undertake, and be as joyfully accepted of; and these Slaves, speaking the *Spanish* Language, will be of as great Use as Interpreters. I am mightily mistaken if Mr. *Ringrose* does not say, in some place the *Spaniards* remov'd



mov'd their *Chilean* Slaves from the Sea-Ports, for fear of their joining with the *Buccanneers* when they made Descents upon the Coast of *Peru*, to surprize any Place they had an intention to Plunder. I shall now dismiss this Head, tho' there may be much more said of it; but I think will not be amiss to take Notice, that 'tis situated betwixt the 30th and 40th Degrees of South Latitude, and is the first Country that is inhabited by any *Spaniards*, as you come into those Seas round *Cape Horne*.

I have been more concise in the several Points treated on in this short Work, than otherwise I should have been, because I intended at the same time that I publish'd these Papers of my own, to accompany them into the World with a small Treatise of Captain *Lewis Pain's*, a very understanding honest Gentleman, who was taken by the *Spaniards* in *Europe*, and sent over in 1707 to *America*, where he was kept in Chains several Years, being made use of as an Engineer, by which means, he had Paper, Pen and Ink allow'd him; and in those Intervals he had of leisure, compos'd the following short Memoir of the State of the *Spaniards* there; at last he found a way, by means of a *Mesteeze* Woman, to escape to *Jamaica*, but died three Weeks after his arrival. I purcha'sd all his *Manuscripts* for ten Pistoles, and amongst them found this, with which I

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now present my Readers, containing a more exact and intelligible Draught of those truly *Terra Incognita*, the Inland *Spanish* Plantations, than any that (I at least) have any where met with.

The Love of my native Country prevail'd on me to enter on this Work, which, I hope, will afford at least Hints to some worthy Persons, to improve the Naval Strength of *Britain*, extend her Commerce, enrich her Inhabitants, employ her Hands, and exalt her Glory; which are the utmost Wish of the Author of these Pages, and have been equally the End of his Endeavours, as they were the farthest Aim of his Ambition.



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Or, a PLAN of the  
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WORLD.

CONTAINING

A Succinct Deduction of Navigation and Commerce, from the most early Date, to the Enterprizes of the *Portuguese* and *Spaniards*, into the East and West *Indies*; a concise and exact Account of the Discovery of *America*, and of the first Adventurers thither. The Settlement of the *Spanish* Empire in *Mexico* and *Peru*; the Countries they possess; their Government; the Nature and Manners of the People; their Commodities, Strength, Riches, &c.

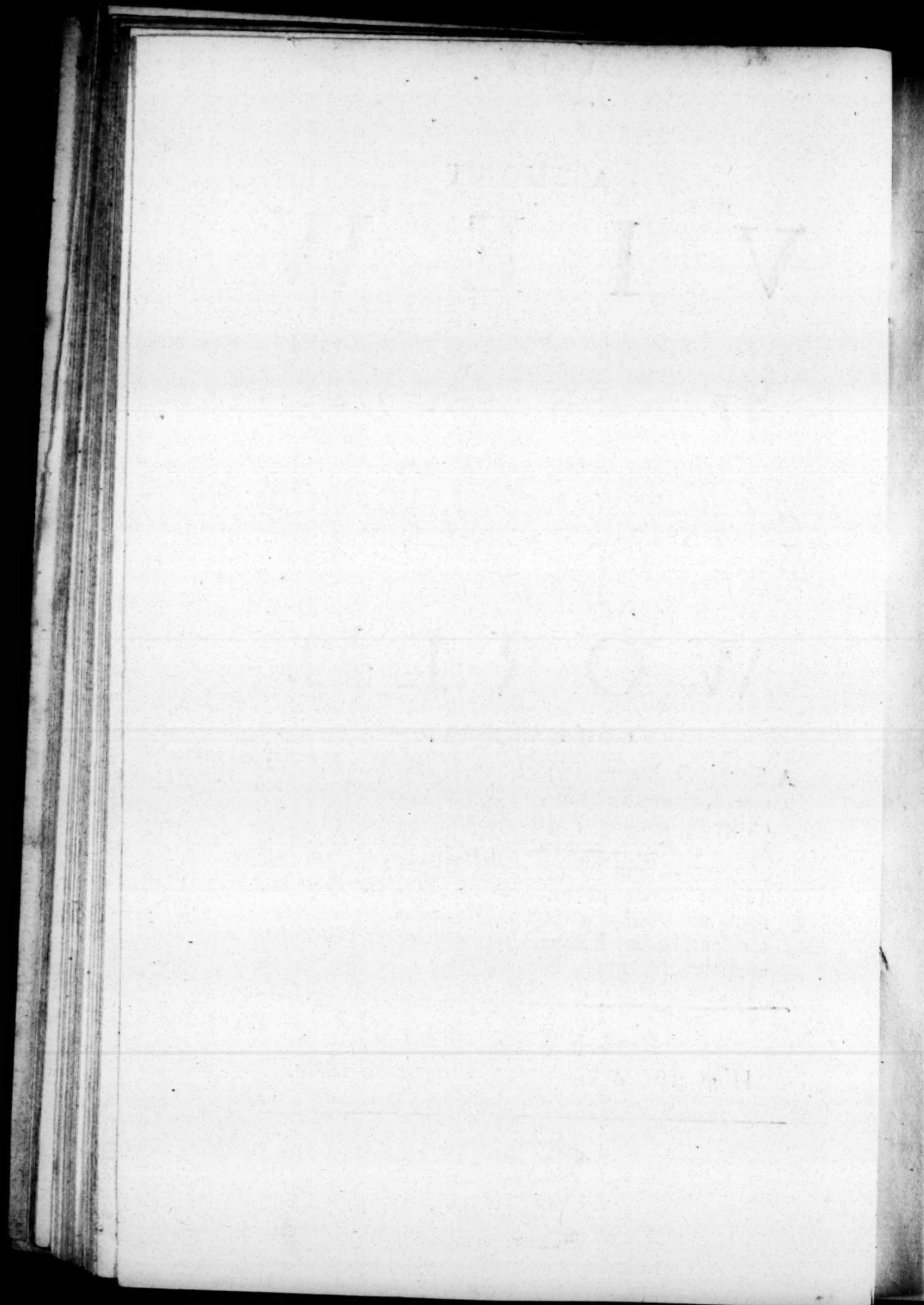
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By LEWIS PAIN,  
*Who was a CAPTIVE amongst them.*

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A SHORT  
 V I E W  
 O F  
*Spanish America, &c.*


 HOEVER attentively considers the Form of our Ter-  
 raqueous Globe, the Magni-  
 tude of the wat'ry Element,  
 the Manner in which it is  
 dispers'd, the Situation of  
 the Shores; and the disposal of the Firm Land  
 into Continents and Islands, cannot but  
 admire the Wisdom of Providence thus or-  
 dering all Things for the Advantage of Man-  
 kind; and providing that the Want of one  
 Country may be supplied thro' the Abun-  
 dance of another; the Blessings of each Cli-  
 mate diffusing themselves throughout all.  
 Nor can he avoid discovering the usefulness  
 of

of Commerce, the Cause which produceth such excellent Effects, deduceable from the very Construction of the Globe, and render'd at once both necessary and convenient. History, obscure in the rise of most ancient Arts and Sciences, affords but a glimmering Light with respect to the Invention of Shipping; for as to inland Trade, it would be ridiculous to enquire about it, since its *Ara* must appear to common Sense, to fall but very little short of the Creation. For as soon as Men assum'd *Property*, there must of consequence ensue a want of mutual Assistance for the Support of each other, producing the exchange of Commodity for Commodity, or something which common Consent had admitted as a Measure for both; the very Methods by which Traffick is carried on at this Day

Tho' with respect, as I have said, to foreign Commerce, there be nothing certain delivered as to its beginning, (possibly because it was by much the elder Brother of Letters) yet no sooner do we meet with any Records, but they give Testimony of its great Utility, and of that surprizing Power it hath to make a great City of a small, and to enable narrow Republicks to rise to be the Mates, sometimes the Conquerors, of mighty Kingdoms. The *Phœnicians* are yet famous for their Power at Sea; tho' we know little of their State, but that it owed its Strength to its Riches, and those to Trade. *Carthage*,  
rival



Rival to *Rome*, and once well nigh her Mistress, claim'd all her Glory from the same Cause. *Greece*, in its turn, was likewise famous for its Shipping. *Athens* trusted to her Navy, when the Arms of the *Persians* made her distrust her Walls. *Rome* indeed for a while, neglected Commerce, but it seems chiefly owing to her having no Opportunity to extend it, till she had made way to it, by reducing her troublesome Neighbours in *Italy*, and settled on a firmer Basis the Constitution of her State; but when she once had acquir'd a Power at Sea, it quickly carried her to the utmost Pitch of Grandeur. Amongst the several Governments that rose out of the Ruins of the Western Empire, those which addicted themselves to the cultivating Naval Force have been the most flourishing, and attain'd the most stable Power, as, for Instance, the Commonwealth of *Venice*, which, from a few muddy Islands chosen by the Refugees of *Italy*, because they were almost inaccessible, by an industrious application to Trade, soon grew rich and flourishing, and rank'd herself amongst the chief Potentates of *Italy*. *Genoa* too, from the same prolifick Cause, raised up herself to a greatness dreadful to her Neighbours; she brought *Venice* to the utmost Extremity, and had not those two mighty Republicks contended till they had weakened one another, they might have given Law to all the Princes whose Dominions lie on the *Mediterranean*. That one may be sure

50 *A short View of Spanish AMERICA.*

of not mistaking their source of Power, let us turn our Eyes Northwards, and see the Effects which Traffick produc'd there; the *Hanse-Towns* of *Germany* preserved their Liberty, acquired vast Riches, and grew considerable not only to the petty States about them, but even to foreign Kings, till *Queen Elizabeth* of *England* humbled them, by straightening them in their *Trade*, the only Foundation of their Greatness.

How far the Ancients exceeded us, or how far we at this Day exceed the Ancients, in respect to the Arts of Ship-building and Navigation, requires a much learned Head than mine to decide. Yet since I have now spent almost sixty Years in the Practice as well as Study of the Nautick Art, it may not be improper for me to propose at least my own Sentiments as to this Matter, always leaving it to wiser Heads to determine, whether my Opinions from the Reasons which I offer to support them, ought to be own'd or rejected. With regard to the first Point then, the Accounts we have of *Ptolomey Philopater's* Galley, and the Ships of War belonging to *Demetrius*, each capable of holding four thousand Rowers, seem with many others, to be little deserving Credit, because as I could shew by many Arguments, they could not possibly be of any use; and I am the more ready to believe the Historians who mention them, were under some mistake  
either



either as to their Capacity, or their Construction, because in some old *Spanish* and *English* Authors, we read of the *Bucentaur* of *Venice*, and the *Carricks* from *Spain*, wherein, thro' want of skill in this Matter, the Writers greatly exaggerate the Truth, and give us strange Ideas of Vessels, in which no Wonder at all is to be found, by a well judging Eye, unless unweildiness and being troublesome in Navigation are to pass for Wonders. Indeed, when we reflect that Sailing in those Days meant no more than Coasting, and that Oars therefore were as necessary as Sails, great Allowances may be made, yet not such as will, in my Judgment, bring those Relations within the Compass of Probability. As to Navigation also, I confess I am not at all convinc'd by any thing I have ever met with in Authors, that the Ancients ever could have sailed to *America*, much less, as some would have us believe, that they had surrounded the Earth; their timorousness in quitting the Land, the Make of their Ships, and their want of the Compass, amount with me to a Demonstration that they were incapable of so bold a Voyage. I would not be thought at all to aim at disparaging the Ancients; on the contrary, the Fleet of *Tyre* and *Carthage* convince me, that, according to the Helps they had, they were able Mariners. The Riches, Power, and Magnificence of those two Cities, persuade me they were skilful Merchants. The great Naval En-



gagements between the *Greeks* and *Persians*, and afterwards between the two great States of *Athens* and *Lacedemon*; the Sea-fights between the *Romans* and *Carthagenians* the Piratic War under *Pompey*, the Battle between *Cesar* and *Anthony*, with his *Egyptian* Succours, which decided the Fate of the whole World, and to whom it was to become Subject, leave me no room to doubt of their gallant Behaviour on board, as well on shore, as the noble remains of their several Moles, Ports, and Havens, satisfy me to the full in their Skill, as to naval Architecture. Yet I confess, I continue still in the same mind in this, That with the Advantages, Chance and Experience have afforded the Moderns, we now excel them in every one of these Particulars, that is, our Vessels are far more convenient either for sailing or for fight; that we carry on a far more general and extensive Trade than they; and that our Discoveries are properly so called, and were never known to the Ancients; tho' I am willing to admit, that in all these Respects they far exceeded the next succeeding Ages.

Upon the Decline of the *Roman* Liberty and Greatness, as all other Arts sunk and decay'd, so did Navigation, and I am very sensible that the World in *A. D.* 1000. was far less acquainted with Naval Art, either as to Force or Sailing, than the *Greeks* and *Romans*, or perhaps those ancient Mariners the *Phœnicians* themselves, but it began to recover

recover again in about *A. D.* 1300. when *Flavius* of *Amalphi*, in the Kingdom of *Naples*, invented the *Compass*, which has been since so much improv'd, that we may now call it the *Arcanum* of Navigation, without a thorough Knowledge of which, nothing extraordinary can ever be perform'd. The *Portuguese* were the next who endeavour'd the Improvement of this Science, in order to extend their Commerce; which after several Attempts, they happily effected by *Vasquez de Gama*, who under King *Emanuel*, discovered the Passage round by *Cape Bon Esperance*, and put the *Portuguese* in Possession of the *Indian Trade*, hitherto managed solely by the *Venetians*, rather by labour and mercantile Arts than any great skill in Naval Affairs.

5. But I hasten now to the *Spanish* Progress in Maritime Discoveries, owing rather to the good Fortune of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella*, their then Catholick Majesties, than to any Knowledge in this respect of their Subjects; for it was not a *Spaniard* but an *Italian* who brought this invaluable Acquisition to the Crown of *Spain*, viz. the ever famous *Christopher Columbo*, who was by Birth a *Genoese*, bred to the practical Science of Navigation, but indeed with an excellent Genius, and happy in a competent share of Education; he had for some time weigh'd in himself certain Reasons which sway'd him to the belief of a new World, as he calls it, in his  
Scheme



Scheme which he sent by his Brother to King *Henry* the Seventh of *England*, and fancied the Propositions he made to that Prince, famous for his Love of Money, would prevail on him to afford the necessary assistance of Ships, &c. for such an Expedition. But failing there and in *Portugal*, he came in Person into *Spain*; and presenting a large Scheme of his Design to Queen *Isabella*, she, after long Deliberation, approv'd it, and, at her own Cost, raising the necessary Sum on her Jewels, pledg'd to the Secretary of State, fitted him out in 1492, without the participation of King *Ferdinand*, farther than procuring his Commission; giving proper Authority to *Columbo*, who on the 11th Day of *October* 1492, discover'd *Hispaniola*, and by that Discovery secured immortal Glory to himself, and the noblest Conquest that was ever gain'd to the *Spaniards*. Between this and *A. D.* 1502. he made four Voyages more, yet had the ill Fortune to be seiz'd, after all his great Services, and sent over Prisoner into *Spain*, where after some time, he was released and rewarded with the Title of Duke, taken from *St. Jago de la Vega*, now *St. James Town* in the Island of *Jamaica*. Notwithstanding that, not only *Columbo*, but *John Cabot*, a *Venetian*, in the Service of King *Henry* the Seventh of *England*, discovered a great Part of the Continent; yet did the whole receive its Name from *Americus Vesputius*, a *Florentine*, who,  
by



by the Command *Emanuel* King of *Portugal*, attempting to sail a new Way to the *Molucco's*, discover'd the Coast to *Cape Augustin* in *Brazil*. In about *A. D.* 1520 *Ferdinand Magellan*, by Command of the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth, undertook also a Voyage by a nearer Course to the *Molucco's*, and passing thro' the *South Seas*, left his Name to those Streights by which he entered them. Sir *Francis Drake*, in *A. D.* 1577, undertook his famous Voyage, which he compleated in two Years and a half. The Dispute between the *Spanish* and *English* Nations, who first surrounded the Globe, is thus resolved. *Ferdinand Magellan* arriving at the *Molucco's* was there slain, but his Ship return'd safe into *Spain*. Sir *Francis Drake* perform'd this Voyage twice with Safety. The Fables were numerous and monstrous that were told of the Country and Inhabitants on the Sides of this Streight, that which has been since found to be but an ordinary Island, was in our Ancestors Days taken for a mighty Continent, and honour'd with the founding Name of *Terra Australis Incognita*. But *Jacob Mayre* being fitted out at *Amsterdam*, in 1615 in *June*, the *January* following he entered the *South Sea* by another more commodious Passage than that of *Magellan*, where the contrarieness of the Winds often retards, and not seldom, quite hinders the Passage. To this Streight, which discover'd the *Terra del Fuogo* to be but an Island,

Island, he too has bequeathed his Name. Having thus, as I intended, shewn in brief the Advantage of Navigation and Traffick, and deduced it from its Origin to the Discovery of all which is now called *America*; it seems now a fit Time to enter upon what I purposed, as the chief End of my Design, the Description of the *Spanish* Dominions in this *Hemisphere*.

The Empire of the Catholick King in *America*, is a sufficient Demonstration, that Projects, how surprizing soever in their extent, are not always Chimera's. *Columbus*, when he first formed that which with so much Glory he executed, offered it with all its Advantages to his Countrymen, the *Genoese*. Those in the Government of the publick Affairs examined it, and being satisfied with the Reasons, were for encouraging the Proposal. But Signior *Lucio Bernerdi*, representing to them the Condition of the State, and that any Conquests attained in this new discovered World, would be almost impossible to be preserv'd, and would serve but to open the Way to more powerful Princes, it was thereupon rejected, perhaps not without Cause. Then it was by *Bartholomew Columbo* offered to King *Henry* the Seventh of *England*; next to the King of *Portugal*, a great encourager of Navigation; and lastly, to *Ferdinand* and *Isabella* or rather to her only, for it seems agreed amongst the *Spanish* Historians, that Queen claim'd a sole and peculiar



liar Right thereto, suffering none other but her own Subjects, the *Castilians*, to pass over thither, which *Ferdinand*, at her decease, altered, and left all *Spaniards* as much Freedom in this respect one as another. Several brave Captains, and well appointed Ships of War, soon after were transported thither; which quickly subdued not only the Islands *Columbus* had discover'd, but also conquer'd a great part of the Continent, erecting two noble Governments on the Ruins of two vast Empires, viz. *Mexico* and *Peru*. Each of these hath its Vice-Roy, who has many great Officers under him, with some Places within the Bounds of those two general Divisions, which yet are Independent, and subject only to the Council in *Spain*; but the Form, the Maxims and the End of their Policy, being throughout the vast extent of their *American* Dominions the same. I shall, for the sake of being at once concise and perspicuous, first describe their Method of Ruling, and then give a particular Description of the several Provinces, which are at present under their Dominion.

The only essential Maxim which runs through the whole Political OEconomy of the *Spaniards*, in respect of their Territories here, is the keeping them in an absolute Dependence upon *Spain*. All things therefore relating to their *American* Empire, receive their first Form; and all Disputes, all

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Projects,



Projects, and all Designs of extending or improving their Dominions, are considered in their *Denier Resort* by the Council for the *Indies* in *Spain*, compos'd of such, who both from Theory and Experience, have attain'd a perfect Knowledge of these Countries. As to *America* itself, it is, as I have said, divided into two large Governments, *Mexico*, called also *New Spain*, and *Peru*; each of which hath its Vice-Roy, who is honoured with a very extensive Commission. He hath for his Assistance a Council, and under him, in the large Provinces of his Government, several subordinate Officers, who wear the Titles of Presidents, Alcalds, &c. appointed at the Will of the Vice-Roy, who, notwithstanding some outward Forms, and shew of Limitations from his Council, is for all that absolute; making by Presents, Perquisites, and Traffick, an immense Wealth, by large Sums, out of which he procures himself to be continued another five Years (his first and usual Term) in his Government, and sometimes more. The two chief Points which these Vice-Roys have committed to their Care, is the conserving, and, if it be any way practicable, the encreasing the King's Revenues in Plate, &c. which yearly is carried from *Porto Bello* into *Spain*; and the keeping the Natives *Criollo's*, *Mestee* and *Indians* in subjection, which is executed with the utmost Rigor, and is the source of all the Evils that are felt

felt here: And since the chief Knowledge that can be acquir'd of the true Situation of these Affairs is deriv'd from hence, it seems reasonable I should explain it a little farther.

The natural born *Spaniards*, are solely vested with Command throughout all the *Spanish Indies*; they only enjoy Posts of Honour, Profit and Trust; and this it is which occasions those Draughts which have so drain'd and weaken'd their Dominions in *Europe*; for putting no Confidence even in the very first Generation of their Descendants, and absolutely prohibiting all Strangers from going thither in their Service, a necessity follows of sending thither continually large Supplies, that they may be still in a Condition to hold the Reins with equal tightness. This Form of Government creates an irreconcilable Antipathy between the *European Spaniards* and the *Criollo's*, i. e. those born of *Spanish* Parents in the *West Indies*. These latter see, with Indignation, themselves equally shut out from all considerable Perferment either in Church or State; the most palpable Partiality shewn in all judicial Decisions between them and *Spaniards*; and, in a word the whole Policy of their Governors bent to distress and to deject them: The *Spaniards*, on the other Hand, no ways ignorant of their Sentiments, and moreover continually jealous of their desire to throw off the *Spanish Yoke*, en-



tirely exert their utmost Arts to enfeeble and enslave them: They discourage, as far as they are able, all Sorts of Manufactures, of which being unprovided, they must of course purchase such as are sent from *Spain*; they also endeavour to hinder Plantations (except Estancias or Beef Farms) that they may not have it in their Power to possess rich and improv'd Settlements; the Cause why those noble Countries are so little cultivated; and, lastly, they make it their Aim to encrease Luxury, Idleness, and Pusillanimity amongst them, that they more easily may be kept in Obedience: Whence it apparently follows, Buccaneers, and such like, in small Numbers are able to do the utmost Mischief. And thus throughout all these vast rich and noble Provinces, the Inhabitants seem inspir'd with a Spirit of Dissention, which renders them continually restless and uneasy, making almost useless those Blessings indulgent Providence has conferr'd upon them.

As to the Religion of the *Spanish Americans*, it is universally Popish; and if there be any degree in Bigottry amongst them, it is among the Natives, who almost adore the Priests; and are severely fleec'd by them, paying them out of all they have much more than the Tyth. Amongst the Clergy, there are great Divisions, occasioned chiefly by the national Quarrels between the *Criolo's* and the *Spaniards*, which  
subsisted



subsisted long, and seem rather to encrease than diminish; the several Orders of Friars, as in *Europe*, are exceedingly jealous of one another, tho' they all find Ways to gain so much upon the Minds of the People, that there is not perhaps in the World finer and more costly Monasteries and Religious Houses than are here; the Power, Riches, and Grandeur of the Church, rising no where higher.

The Inhabitants of these Countries, are. [1.] Natural born *Spaniards*. [2.] *Criolians*, of *Spanish* Parents born in *America*. [3.] *Mesteeze*, born of *Indian* and *Spanish* Parents. [4.] *Indians*, properly Natives. [5.] *Negro's* brought hither from *Africk*. As for the *Spaniards* they differ little from those in *Europe*, except they are more high and lofty than in *Spain*; as they are Lords here, possessing every Thing, and living on the Labour of others. The *Criols* fall not a bit short of them in Vanity and Haughtiness; but, as I have said, are kept much under, never allow'd any considerable Preferment, and are even worse us'd than the *Indians* themselves; they are ignorant, lazy and pusillanimous in general, tho' here and there, especially amongst the Churchmen, some deserve a better Character. The *Indians* are a simple, well natur'd industrious People, much lessen'd in their Numbers by the excessive Cruelty us'd at first by their Conquerors; they are yet sufficiently press'd by the Yoke of Bondage, but where-ever they are allow'd a Relaxation,

Relaxation, they build convenient Cities, and soon make themselves rich and flourishing. The *Negroes* here, as elsewhere, are made use of as Slaves.

As to the Commodities of this Country, I shall speak more particularly, under the Description I shall give of its several Parts. In respect of its Trade, it is wholly Domestic, except what is carried on with *Spain*, a yearly Ship from *Acapulco*, to the *East Indies*, and the prohibited Commerce they used to carry on with the *English*. The *Spaniards* who, as I have said, own no other Maxim in their *Indian* Politicks, than to keep the *Americans* in absolute subjection, are in nothing more careful than what relates to Traffick; having taken every precaution they were able to hinder their intercourse with other Nations, both by heavy Fines, and severe Punishments, which sometimes have extended even to Death itself; and by maintaining Vessels of Force in pay under the Name of *Guard du Costa's*, in order to cruise about and make Prize of whatever Ship they find within the limits of their Seas; they likewise suppress some, and carefully discourage all Manufactures from being carried on there; tho' for all that, some very tolerable Cloth is made in *Quito*; for it is here, as in some other polite Countries, a handsome Present to those in the Administration is a certain Method to strike Justice, or at least the Ministers of Justice, both blind and



and dumb. The Shipping here are neither numerous nor convenient; what there are continually pass to and fro between the two vast Divisions of this Empire, which as they were before, the only Parts of the World known to the *Indians*, so they are now the only Places which have any Commerce together under the Government of the *Spaniards*: But as all is of late fallen under the Direction of the *French*, it is highly probable they soon may be alter'd.

Having thus, in general, mentioned what alike concerns all the *Spanish America*, which from the morose Gravity of the People, differ as little in their Manners as in *Spain*; we shall now descend to a kind of Geographical Description of its several Provinces, both of *Peru* and *Mexico*, as they lie along the Coast *North*, and of the *South Sea*; in which we shall consider their Extent, their Soil, their Climate, their Produce, their Trade, their Cities, Ports and Towns, with whatever else we find remarkable, in order to giving a clear and distinct View of the Territory, Force and Riches of the *Spaniards* in this Climate.

The first great Province of the Catholick King's Dominion here, is called *Mexico* or *North-Spain*, and, as the *Spaniards* reckon them, is divided into *Mexico*, *Quivera*, *Nicaragua*, *Yucatan*, *Florida*, *Virginia*, *Norembega*, *Nova-Francia*, *Corterialis*, and *Esotilandia*. The other Vice-Royalty of *Peru*,  
they



they divide thus; *Castella Aurea*, *Guinea*, *Pera* (properly so called) *Brasil* and *Chili*. I shall consider them as they lie *North* and *South*, under Modern Names, and afterwards mention the Islands.

*Florida*, is the Northern Country in the *Spanish* Dominion; it lies on the North Sea, and makes one Side of the Bay of *Mexico*; the *Spaniards* consider it as a Country of vast extent, but then they take in a great deal of what is already settled by the *English* and *French*; the latter had some Possession of that Part of it, now in the Hand of *Spain*, but the *Spaniards*, by continual Wars, at last wearied them out. The true Reason why the *Spaniards* are so careful of this Country, is, because should any other Nation fully settle it, they would have an open Road to the *Spanish* Territories, and in such a Case, the *Criolians* would, as I have said, make a very indifferent Defence. The Soil and Air of *Florida* are both exceedingly good, and the Country plentiful, and covered with a pleasant Verdure: the chief *Spanish* Garrison is that of *St. Augustin*, besides which they have but one or two more, and those not very considerable. The Natives are an ingenious, brave and honest People, who live in Clans, like the *Scotch Highlanders*, under their Heads or Princes, call'd *Caciques*, who have found all who have attempted to conquer them, hard Work. Its Commodities for Trade, (I mean that Part in

in the *Spaniards* Hands) are little besides Furs, but if it were possessed by an industrious People, it might be greatly improv'd.

*Quivira*, as the *Spaniards* call it, or *New Mexico*, is still far from being discovered; some suppose it to border upon *Tartary*; and it is reported that *Vasquez di Coranado*, who went thither in 1540, saw in the farther Sea Vessels, which he took to be *Cathayan* or *Chinese*. The Soil here is good, the Air and Climate excellent, the Country full of Inhabitants; but because there are no Mines there, 'tis in a great measure neglected by the *Spaniards*; however, there are some Towns. Amongst those of chief Note, are *Cibola*, *Totontaa* and *Tinguez*; the Riches of the Inhabitants consist in Cattle. Near this Country (which passes under several Names) lies, as is supposed, the Kingdom of *Anian*, giving Denomination to the Streights which have *California*, on one Side, and this Part of the Continent on the other.

Next in its order lies the Province of *Mexico* or *New Spain*, properly so called, formerly the Seat of the famous *Mexican* Empire to which *Hernando Cortez* put an End the 13th of August 1521, by the Conquest of *Mexico*, their Capital, and taking their last Emperor *Quahuhtimoc*. This noble Country is the Flower of the *Spanish* Dominion here, abounding with all Things necessary for the Life or Conveniency of Man. *Mexico* itself is a large and magnificent City,  
I situated

situated like *Venice*, amongst the Waters of  
 her famous Lake; it is the Place where re-  
 sides the *Spanish* Governor for the Northern  
 Province, an Archbishop, the Court of Chan-  
 cery, and the other Offices belonging to  
 the Crown of *Spain* in these Countries. Pro-  
 per *Mexico* is divided into four Parts, viz.  
*Themistecitan*, *Nova Galicia*, *Mechooacan* and  
*Guastacan*; in the first of these lies the Ci-  
 ty of *Mexico* itself, and the City *De los*  
*Angelos*, with some others of lesser Note.  
 It was a very populous Country when in the  
 Power of the *Indians*, who were a very  
 wise and industrious People, well skill'd in  
 melting and making Vessel of their Metals,  
 and in the composing Feather-works, the  
 most beautiful that could be imagin'd; as  
 it stands at present in the Hands of the  
*Spaniards*, they draw from it immense Riches;  
 for the Mines here, tho' they do not contain  
 as great a Quantity of Metal in Proportion  
 to the Oar as those in *Peru*, yet the Metal  
 is finer, and extracted with far less trouble  
 than theirs. *Mexico* is even yet populous;  
 the City of *Angels* is also very rich, the  
 Town of *La Vera Cruz* is the Port; and  
 the Sums extracted from this Province are  
 very large; the *Spanish* Officers also making  
 much Money by their Perquisites, *i. e.* by  
 their Extortions. The Vice-Roy alone, not-  
 withstanding his noble Allowance of 100000  
 Ducats *per Annum*, squeezing them to the  
 amount of a Million; in which laudable  
 Practice



Practice his under Governors, Presidents, Alcades and Judges, are sure to follow him; by which tho' the poor People suffer much, yet 'tis the poorest suffer most. Amongst those that are of any Rank, the highest Luxury in all kinds is visible, 20000 Coaches being kept in the City of *Mexico* alone. The fine Situation, fertility of Soil, the Seat of Government, and conveniency of Living, has attracted hither such a concourse of People, as may make it vye with an *European* City, both for Populoufness and for Splendor.

The Trade of this Province is almost altogether Inland, except what is carried yearly to *Vera Cruz*, in order to be transported to *Old Spain*, and what is sent to *Acapulco*, its Port on the *South Seas*, from which the famous annual Ship goes to the *Philippines*; by these two Sea-Ports the whole Commerce of the *Spanish North America* is sent and brought home.

*Yucatan* is the next Province, a *Peninsula*, one Side of which bounds the famous Bay of *Mexico*; 'tis about 900 Miles in Compass, a fruitful pleasant Country, abounding with *Indian* Corn or Maiz, Fruits, Physical Shrubs and Herbs, such as *Sarsaparilla*, &c. Fowls of all sorts, and great Numbers of Cattle, whose Hydes are the chief Commodity; it is divided into three Parts, *Yucatan* proper, *Queitamaha*, and the Island of *Santa Cruz*. The most known Places in

*Yucatan* are *Merida*, *Campeachy*, &c. In *Guatemala* much the richest Province, are *St. Jago* or the City of *Guatamala*, *Chiapa*, &c. finely built, large and well inhabited, both by *Spaniards* and *Indians*. The last Division of it is, the Island of *St. Cruz*, so called from its chief City, the whole Peninsula points directly to the Island of *Cuba*, and tho' it furnishes all the Conveniencies of Life, yet as no Mines are found in it the *Spaniards* think but poorly of it; however, it is populous and very full of *Indians*.

*Honduras*, is the Province adjoining to *Yucatan*, lying along the *North-Sea*; a noble Country, indifferently inhabited, tho' rich, pleasant and fruitful; its chief Cities are *Valladolid*, situated exactly between the two Seas, *Gratias a Dos*, near the Gold Mines, and the famous City of *Truxillo*. *Nicaragua* lies close on the back Side of *Honduras*, and extends itself in the like manner along the *South Sea*, as the other doth along the *North*; this is beyond compare the finest Country of all *Mexico*, full of rich Mines, and yet fruitful in Corn and Fruits, which are sometimes preferr'd to Gold; adjacent to it lies *Costa Rica* and *Veragua*, which in some degree resemble it, and adjoining the *Isthmus* of *Darien*, which divides this Country from *Peruana* or *South America*. On the *South Sea* in this *Isthmus* stands *Panama*, a famous City, whither the Riches of the Southern Coast of *Mexicana* and *Peruana*

*Peruana* are brought, and thence transported to *Porto Bello*, on the other Side of the *Isthmus*, on the *North Sea*, it goes on board the *Galleons*, who proceed to their Rendezvous at the *Havana* in the Island of *Cuba*, and thence sail to *Old Spain*.

We are now come to speak of *South America* or *Peruana*, which is still richer than *Mexico*, and is above all rendered famous for that immense Quantity of Wealth which *Spain* has drawn from her Mines of *Potosi*. *Lima* is the Seat of the Vice-Roy of *South America*; who also hath as much Power, and acquires yet greater Riches, than he of the Northern Province; we will examine this in the same Order we have done the former. The first Province than bordering upon the *Isthmus*, is the *Castella Del Oro*, or, as its usually call'd by the *Spaniards*, *Terra Firma*; in this, as we now reckon it *Panama*, and all on the *South Side* is contain'd. The Country is very watry and unwholsome, but valuable for its Mines of Gold, the most famous of which is *St. Maria*, near the *Isthmus*. The chief Place here, is the celebrated *Carthagera*, where the *Galleons* from *Spain* make their first stay. *Guyana* lies next, which is not thoroughly in the power of the *Spaniards*, tho' much coveted for the vast Quantity of Gold found here, as it is for ever rendered famous for the unfortunate Expedition of *Sir Walter Raleigh*, against *Fort St. Thomas* in 1595. To this adjoins *Peru* itself, whose  
Soil



Soil and Climate were not to be boasted of, if it did not abound as it doth, with Gold and Silver, in respect of which it may be justly called one of the richest Countries in the World. *Lima*, is the Place of the Vice-Roy's Residence, and is a neat, beautiful and compact City; its Port is that of *Callao*, as the Port of *Potosi*, and its adjacent City *Imperiali*, is *Arica*, famous in our Journals at Sea. *Chili* lies next to the Province of *Peru*, and is absolutely the finest Country and richest in all *America*, whether *North* or *South*; the Inhabitants are a hardy, valiant and stubborn People, who having been ill used by the *Spaniards*, drove them out of their Country, kill'd their Governor, and are their inveterate Enemies to this Day; however, the *Spaniards* have now recover'd *Baldivia*, and some other Places on the Sea Coast. *Paraguay* or rather *La Plata*, is at the back of *Chili*, in which the Catholick King hath the valuable Settlement of *Buyenos Ayres*, one of the finest in *America*, the true *Paraguay* is entirely subject to, and form'd by the Jesuits. *Terra Magellanica* is the last *Spanish* Settlement I have to mention, and to say truth, is difficult enough to determine, whether it be settled or no; however, they claim it, and as they reckon it part of their Possessions, so shall I. As to the Islands which they have under their Dominions, the most remarkable in the *North Sea* are *Cuba*, in which lies the famous

famous Harbour of *Havana*, the largest and most commodious in the whole *American* Territories; *Hispaniola*, whose Capital *St. Domingo*, was built by *Columbus*, and *Porto Rica*; all of considerable bigness, and of Importance, with several others of lesser Note. In the *South Sea*, there is only *California* of any great extent, and it is, as yet, not half discovered, however, there are many small ones, some of which are valuable in their Possession, for tho' with respect had to the Compass of Land, the *Spaniards* are few, yet there are a vast Number of them in *America*, and were they under a Politick Government there, which intended the strengthening and extending them, they would quickly grow a more formidable Empire than ever they are now like to be.

Perhaps it may be proper to observe, that I have not so much as mentioned either the Northern Extremities of *America* or *Brasil* justly esteem'd one of the most excellent Provinces of this New World, as to the first, tho' the *Spaniards* do still claim them, yet as they are in a great part unknown, and as the greatest part of what is known, belongs now to other Nations, they do not fall naturally within the Compass of my Design, which was to speak only of the Dominions of the *Spanish* Crown. The latter is in the Hands totally of the *Portuguese*, tho' they once  
lost

lost a great part of it to the *Dutch*. As to the Extent of these vast Territories, the Northern Province or *Mexicana*, is reckon'd 13000 Miles, and the Southern or *Peruana* 17000 in Circumference; tho' these are but round Numbers, and I suspect the first especially, is not very exact; as to the Number of People, tho' it must be allowed vast Multitudes were kill'd in the Conquest by *Pizaro Cortez Almagro*, and other *Spanish* Captains, yet it may be easily prov'd, that *America* was never populous, tho' the Causes of that thinness are not so easily to be found out.

F I N I S.





